

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND PERFORMANCE
OCTOBER 5, 2016**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

UPDATE ON EMERGENCY WATER CONSERVATION REGULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER B-37-16 (MAKING CONSERVATION A CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE).

DISCUSSION

On May 9, 2016, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-37-16, which directs state agencies to recommend a suite of actions intended to strengthen water conservation, water use efficiency, and drought planning in both the urban and agricultural sectors. The Executive Order is divided into four categories: Use water more wisely, Eliminate water waste, Strengthen local drought resilience, and Improve agricultural water use efficiency and drought planning; and it directs the state agencies (State Water Board, Department of Water Resources, Energy Commission, Public Utilities Commission, and Department of Food and Agriculture) to initiate specific actions and to develop recommendations for implementing new policies for improving water conservation, efficiency, and drought planning by January 10, 2017. The State Water Board has been collaborating with the other state agencies to develop recommendations.

The state agencies have hired a facilitator and set up stakeholder advisory and technical working groups to solicit input on how to most effectively implement the directives in the Executive Order. The stakeholder groups began meeting in August. Some of the issues under consideration include: new standards for water shortage contingency plans, how to set standards for indoor and outdoor use efficiency and for efficiency improvements by businesses and institutions, data collection needs, and timelines for achieving compliance with new requirements. This informational item will summarize the issues under consideration and staff recommendations based on analysis and stakeholder input.

The Executive Order also contains specific directives for the State Water Board. Those directives are summarized below.

- Prepare for an extension of the emergency regulation for urban water conservation that builds off the 25% statewide mandate (from Executive Order B-29-15) by January 2017
- Permanently require urban water suppliers to report monthly on water usage, conservation, and enforcement efforts
- Permanently prohibit practices that waste potable water
- Use loans from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to prioritize leak detection and repair
- Direct all water suppliers to improve data collection and management of water loss
- Develop compliance methods and enforcement actions for non-compliance

State Water Board staff will be joined by representatives from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide an update on implementation of these directives. The joint-agency presentation will discuss standards, water use targets, and describe the feedback collected from three Urban Advisory Group meetings held during August and September 2016. The agencies will discuss how the Urban Advisory Group input and agency directives will be incorporated into a framework report that will be released in January 2017.

State Water Board staff will also give an overview of the August 2016 conservation levels.

POLICY ISSUE

Assess options for implementation of the Executive Order.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None – Informational Item.